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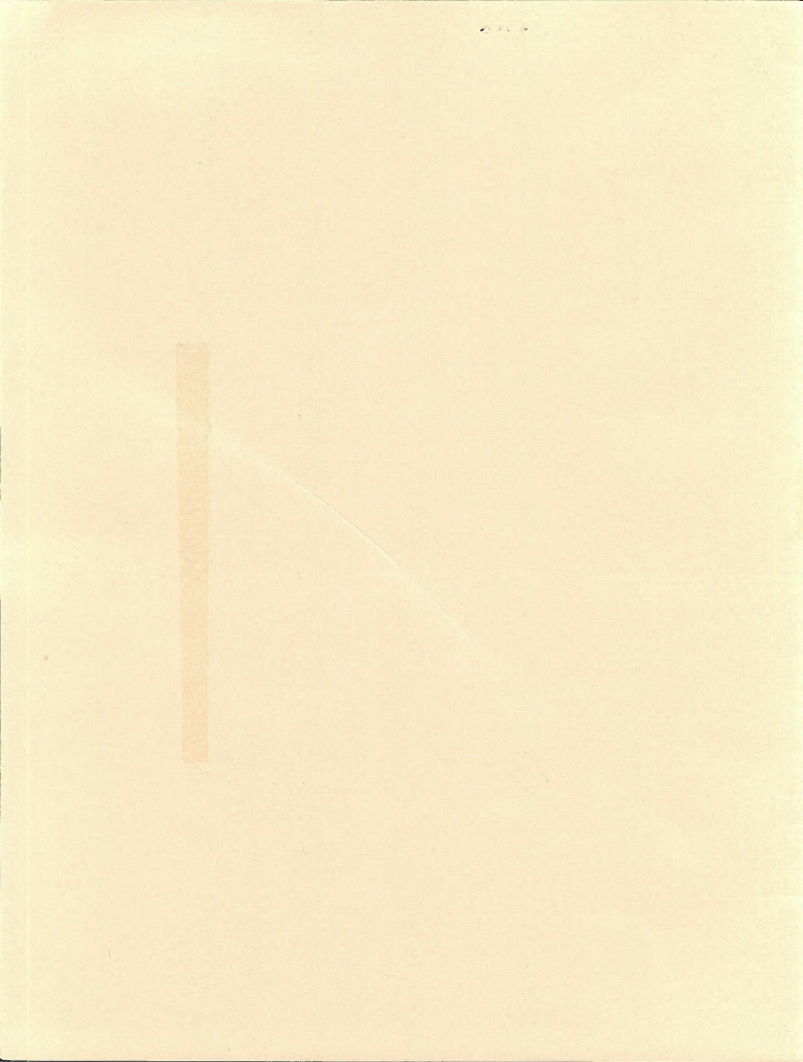
East Roswell Grazing Management Area

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SUMMARY REPORT

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1980

April 1980





United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Roswell District Office
P. O. Box 1397
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

April 24, 1980

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed is a copy of the East Roswell Rangeland Management Program Summary Report. The program described in this document was developed with the consultation and coordination of livestock operators, the State Land Office, Roswell District Grazing Advisory Board, the New Mexico State University Range Improvement Task Force, and other interested parties.

The program is a result of an intensive planning process and the East Roswell Grazing Environmental Statement (a study required by the National Environmental Policy Act).

Included in the program are the development of specific grazing management systems, the development of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, and the adjustment of livestock numbers. The result of the program will be a general increase in forage production and improvement in the rangeland condition.

Adjustments in livestock numbers between 1980 and 1984 could have a temporary but negative effect on the social and economic life of those directly and indirectly associated with grazing livestock on public lands. However, as a result of the total improvement program certain social and economic benefits will be realized.

Implementation of this program will begin only after full consultation with the livestock operators, State Land Office, District Grazing Advisory Board, and other interested parties.

We hope that the enclosed document can be easily read and understood. If you have any questions, however, please call the BLM office in Roswell (622-7670) or Carlsbad (887-6544).

Sincerely,


James H. O'Connor
District Manager

Enclosure
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INTRODUCTION

This document sets forth the actions to be taken to accomplish an overall improvement of approximately 1.5 million acres of federally owned public rangelands in the East Roswell Grazing Management area. This area also includes approximately 850,000 acres of intermingled private and state owned lands. It includes all of Chaves, Eddy and Lea counties east of the Pecos River.

The actions described are a result of management decisions following an intensive planning effort and an environmental impact statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Livestock and wildlife grazing have been an integral part of both the area's ecology and economy for well over 100 years. Included are 184 grazing allotments operated by approximately 150 ranch families. Over the last three years there has been an average of approximately 19,400 head of livestock authorized to graze in the area. Cattle are the primary grazing animal, with a few horses included for ranch operation. In addition to livestock, there are approximately 1,100 antelope and 1,000 deer in the area.

During 1977 and 1978 a forage inventory was conducted to determine the amount of forage available for grazing. This inventory indicated that the available supply was capable of supporting approximately 14,000 livestock, 1,100 antelope and 1,000 deer yearlong.

The condition of the range was evaluated by surveys conducted in 1976 and 1977 as part of the inventory effort. Results of the evaluation indicated that 350,000 acres (22 percent) were in good condition, 1,170,000 acres

(74 percent) were in fair condition, and 70,000 acres (4 percent) were in poor condition.

An analysis of wildlife habitat indicates that there are 387,000 acres of marginal antelope habitat with low animal populations. There are 563,000 acres of suitable habitat that are deteriorating because of a variety of multiple use activities. There are 103,000 acres of suitable antelope habitat that are stable.

There are 142,000 acres of marginal deer habitat with low animal populations. There are 160,000 acres of suitable deer habitat that are deteriorating because of a variety of multiple use activities. There are 516,000 acres of suitable deer habitat that are stable.

Erosion conditions are generally good. Inventories indicate that 1,202,000 acres (75 percent) are in the "slight erosion" classification, 367,000 acres (23 percent) are in the "moderate" classification, and only 15,000 acres (1 percent) are listed as being in the critical erosion class.

THE PROGRAM

This rangeland management program includes the development of specific grazing management systems, the development of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, and the adjustment of livestock numbers. The program is based on a combination of the following proposals which were considered in the East Roswell Grazing Environmental Statement (ES).

1. The proposed action alternative.
2. Alternative 3, the no action alternative.
3. Alternative 4, the livestock forage maximization alternative.

This combination of proposed actions was selected because it makes possible a degree of rangeland improvement which will achieve the desired potentials for all resources affected within a suitable time frame (15 - 20 years), while minimizing adverse economic impacts on those involved. For these reasons this combination of programs is considered to be the environmentally preferred program.

Livestock Grazing

Group I

Of the 184 grazing allotments affected, 74 have only a small amount of public land within their boundaries and are not conducive to specific management by BLM. The total public lands within these allotments total only 76,800 acres and, for these allotments, BLM grazing authorizations only cover the public land. Specific grazing management systems will not be proposed for these allotments. Methods of implementing any reductions or increases indicated by the vegetative inventory will be worked out individually with the livestock operators. All adjustments on these allotments will be implemented the first year (March 1, 1981). Since the total number of livestock grazed on these allotments will not change significantly, those receiving an increase will be impacted

only by a slight increase in grazing fees. For those being reduced the only impact would be a slight decrease in grazing fees.

Periodic inspections of all 74 allotments and vegetative studies on a representative sample of allotments will be carried out to monitor vegetative responses as a result of this action. In addition, two 10-20 acre exclosures will be constructed to exclude livestock grazing and create islands of desirable, protected habitat for various wildlife species, primarily ground nesting birds.

Range improvements proposed for the federal public lands on these 74 allotments will be limited to one mile of fencing for the wildlife exclosure at an estimated total cost of \$3,300, and seven water developments to improve livestock distribution at an estimated total cost of \$77,000.

Group II

Of the remaining 110 allotments, 20 have existing allotment management plans (AMPs) which provide for specific grazing systems and range monitoring studies. The total federal public lands within these allotments is 583,000 acres. An allotment evaluation will be made on these 20 allotments and a target group, which includes the grazing allottee, members of the District Grazing Advisory Board, representatives of the State Land Office and possibly others, will be invited to participate in this evaluation with BLM. The data collected will assist the target group and BLM in determining the appropriate action regarding possible revision of the AMPs and how livestock adjustments will be implemented. Improving conditions would indicate that downward adjustments may not be necessary. However, if a stable or deteriorating condition is indicated by the evaluation, the cause of the problem will be determined and the appropriate action to correct the problem will be initiated. If a downward adjustment is indicated, either data gathered during this evaluation, the 1977-78 forage inventory, or both will be used as a starting point. The manner and scheduling of the adjustment will be worked out with the target group.

If adjustments are needed, the initial adjustment will be agreed to and put into effect on March 1, 1981.

Studies to monitor vegetation will be continued on all 20 allotments to determine vegetative responses to these actions. If conditions do not improve after 3 years, additional actions will be negotiated with the target group as they become necessary. Proper stocking will be accomplished at the end of 5 years.

By working with each operator individually on the manner and scheduling of livestock adjustments to reach proper stocking and by spreading out adjustments over a 5-year period, economic impacts are expected to be minimized.

Range improvements proposed for these allotments include 40 miles of fence at an estimated total cost of \$132,000, 56 water developments at an estimated total cost of \$616,000, and 390,000 acres of chemical brush control programs at an estimated total cost of \$4,680,000.

Group III

The remaining 90 grazing allotments contain 930,000 acres of federal public land. Prior to October 1, 1980, each of these allotments will be field-inspected. The target group and other interested parties will be invited to attend this inspection. The 1977-78 forage inventory will be used to indicate the existence and extent of any problem. The field inspection will identify specific problems, if any, and will assist in determining those measures necessary to correct such problems. If adequate forage is available and if range improvements and a grazing system will solve these problems, they will be implemented in a priority order with those allotments having the worst problems coming first. Benefit cost ratios and socioeconomic considerations will be taken into account before initiating any program. If, in addition to these actions, reductions of livestock numbers are necessary to reach proper stocking, the procedure for making such adjustments will be the same as those

identified earlier for the 20 allotments in Group II which have existing AMPs. In the case where increases have been identified, and the allotment inspection agrees, the rate at which numbers will be increased will be negotiated with the livestock operator and the target group. Those impacts which cannot be avoided will continue as resource problems until funding is available to complete range improvement projects and implement grazing systems. Economic impacts which could occur if livestock numbers are reduced will be minimized by spreading out the reductions over a 5-year period.

Range improvements proposed for these allotments include 153 miles of fence at an estimated total cost of \$505,000, 183 water developments at an estimated total cost of \$2,013,000 and 570,000 acres of chemical and mechanical brush control at an estimated total cost of \$6,840,000.

Wildlife

The actions described for livestock grazing take into account the needs for wildlife now occupying the area and will assure that habitat requirements for wildlife are met. In addition, 18 livestock exclosures, varying in size from 1/2 acre up to 160 acres, will be surveyed and designed during fiscal year 1981, with construction to be accomplished in fiscal year 1982. These exclosures will be designed to exclude livestock grazing from selected areas (approximately 700 acres) to provide improved habitat conditions for various kinds of wildlife. These exclosures will then be studied and evaluated annually to determine their effectiveness. If these exclosures are accomplishing the desired objectives, the need for others will be assessed through public review and consultations, with additional exclosures being built as necessary. Also, the proposed action of the East Roswell Grazing ES identified the need to protect and enhance forb producing areas for antelope. These needs and the manner in which they can be met through grazing management will be considered in the development of specific grazing systems.

Other Related Actions

Erosion control structures which are identified as being necessary during analysis of allotments and development of grazing systems will be scheduled, with their construction being initiated as funds become available.

Surface protection and rehabilitation efforts, as they apply to other surface uses, will be continued and strengthened as necessary to maintain and improve the vegetative resource.

In total, the program will involve the construction of approximately 194 miles of fence, 246 new water developments, and implementation of brush control programs on approximately 950,000 acres. The total cost of these improvement programs over a 15-20 year period will be approximately \$14,000,000. To protect this investment, and to assure that the maximum resource benefits are achieved, grazing management programs will also be initiated as previously indicated. Adjustments in livestock numbers will be made where such adjustments are determined necessary.

The grazing management programs initiated will be designed to meet the physiological requirements of the desirable vegetation. In most cases, these programs will require a systematic rest period at regular intervals during the growing season.

WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES

This program is designed to fully identify those specific problems occurring on the public rangelands which are preventing the growth of a healthy, productive forage resource for livestock, wildlife, watershed, and general public enjoyment. Once these problems have been identified, the program directs the actions to be taken which will resolve them and permit accomplishment of the rangeland's potential production.

The end result of this program will be a general increase in forage productivity. Implementation of specific grazing systems, range improvements, and livestock adjustments will result in the capability to approximately double the forage production for livestock and wildlife and for watershed protection by the year 2000. Adjustments in livestock numbers between 1980 and 1984 could have a temporary but negative effect on the social and economic life of those directly and indirectly associated with grazing livestock on public lands. However, as a result of the total improvement program certain social and economic benefits will be realized.

Wildlife habitat will be improved on 624,000 acres, producing more recreational opportunities for hunting. Overall, recreational visitor days should increase from 1,700 to 2,700.

Between 1981 and 2000, the grazing management program will entail an expenditure of between \$350,000 and \$700,000 annually for range improvements.

Both of these actions will produce a significant economic stimulus to the area.

As vegetative production increases, livestock numbers will increase, improving the economic situation for those associated with the livestock industry. Sales of range livestock would see their low point in 1982; however, by the year 2000, the cumulative gain in livestock sales is expected to be \$7.1 million above the sales level achieved in 1978.

This program is not expected to affect ranch employment initially. However, as conditions improve additional workers may be required.

Rangeland conditions are expected to be improved on most of the area within 5-10 years. There are presently 352,000 acres in the area in good condition. Because of this grazing management program, the acreage that is in good condition can be expected to increase to 1,306,000 acres by the year 2000. Also, the acreage that is in an upward trend status can be expected to increase from 975,000 to 1,370,000 acres by the year 2000.

When vegetative ground cover reaches its potential, the ES area's yearly soil losses from water erosion will be reduced from the current level of 1,000 acre feet (1,839,000 tons) to 800 acre feet (1,471,000 tons) by the year 2000, a 20 percent decrease. No losses due to wind erosion have been determined.

ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the proposed action, seven alternatives were also considered and evaluated. These are:

1. The proposed action, using alternative chemicals
2. The proposed action, using mechanical brush control only
3. No action
4. Livestock forage maximization
5. Livestock adjustment
6. Enhancement of other resource values
7. No grazing

Since neither the proposed action nor any single alternative was adopted in its entirety, each is presented as an alternative which was considered.

Proposed Action

Highlights of this alternative are:

1. Class of livestock and periods of use would not change.
2. Specific grazing management programs would be revised on 20 allotments and would be developed for 90 additional allotments.
3. Minimal supervision would be continued on 74 allotments.
4. Forage would be initially allocated to provide for the needs of the area's big game populations.
5. Stocking rates would be adjusted over a 3-year period to conform with the present forage production levels, after big game forage needs have been satisfied.

6. Livestock would be excluded from 6,565 acres of rangeland which would be set aside to provide for critical wildlife habitat requirements.
7. Some areas within antelope habitats which produce large amounts of forbs would be set aside during the spring of each year to meet the dietary needs of antelope.
8. On those allotments where specific grazing management programs were to be developed, portions of the area would be rested for a minimum of four months during one annual growing season out of every four years to meet the physiological requirements of plants.
9. Herbicides would be used to reduce the composition of invaded mesquite and creosote brush on 54,280 acres of rangeland initially, and 907,084 acres subsequently. However, subsequent treatment would be done only if evaluations indicated that results anticipated had been attained on the initial treatment area. Brush would be mechanically controlled on an additional 440 acres, while 520 acres would be treated by controlled burning.
10. Under this alternative, it would be anticipated that 246 watering sites would be developed, and 203 miles of fence would be constructed to facilitate the management of livestock and wildlife habitat.

The ultimate use-level under this proposal would be 367,389 AUMs. Implementation of the proposed action would provide for progress in achieving the potential level of production for the existing rangeland resources while reducing impacts which are adversely affecting man's ecological environment. The projected reduction of approximately 40 percent in livestock use authorizations would have a short-term (5 year) adverse impact on ranch economies which would be locally serious. Full implementation of provisions concerning the construction of wildlife exclosures would be a heavy burden to the federal government, in terms of construction costs. This expenditure might not be justifiable on the basis of the value returned. Full implementation of these exclosures would need to be based on the determination of those beneficial results obtained from an

initial, small scale construction program. The decision for full implementation of livestock exclosures would be based on reasoning similar in nature to that used in testing the spray program.

Alternative 1

Using Alternative Chemicals

Highlights of this alternative would be the same as for the proposed action, with the exception that different chemicals would be used. The choice of chemicals for the alternative brush control programs would depend on new chemicals becoming available which are effective against brush and on their anticipated environmental effects. The same consideration concerning the environmental effects of these herbicides and their success rates (results) in controlling brush would be given under this alternative as under the proposed action. This alternative was not selected because those chemicals identified for use under the proposed action would be both more acceptable and effective.

Alternative 2

Mechanical Brush Control Only

Highlights of this alternative would be the same as for the proposed action, with the exceptions that chemicals would not be used to control brush and the size of the area where brush would be controlled would be reduced to 263,056 acres instead of 961,364 acres under the proposed action.

This alternative was not implemented because it would not result in a desirable rate of progress towards meeting the productive potential of the rangeland's resources. Without extensive programs to control the invasion of noxious brush, herbaceous vegetation could not be expected to increase. As a result, the rangelands would undergo an extended period when stocking rates for livestock would be reduced as forage production remained low, or dropped as brush cover increased. Reductions in forage production

would result in a severe economic impact which would, in turn, affect the local economy for many years, losses which might never be recovered. Under this alternative the ultimate livestock use-level would be 240,831 AUMs.

Alternative 3

No Action

This alternative would continue the present authorized-use level of 221,352 AUMs, and there would be no new improvements made on the range which would affect patterns of livestock distribution or use. There would be no programs to control invaded brush, forb-producing areas would not be set aside for antelope use each spring, and wildlife habitat exclosures would not be constructed. Also under this alternative, forage would not be allocated for wildlife, because the present levels of forage production would have already been over-allocated for livestock use. However, existing range improvements would be maintained, but pastures would not be systematically rested from grazing to provide for the physiological requirements of plants.

This alternative was not implemented because it failed to meet the primary multiple-use management objectives of developing productive potentials of the rangelands and of providing protection for both watershed and wildlife habitat. In the long run, implementation of this alternative could have resulted in a continued, steady deterioration in forage production levels and in a decline of the livestock industry's economic stability. A portion of this alternative was utilized in creating the program selected, stating that specific grazing systems will not be required on allotments where field inspections indicate that adverse impacts to other resources would not be expected to occur.

Alternative 4

Maximize Livestock Forage

Implementation of this alternative would result in adjustments of the livestock numbers authorized, as under the proposed action, and would require the development of

specific grazing management systems for all allotments. In addition, programs would be instituted to control invaded brush on 1,435,284 acres. These brush control treatments would be designed to achieve a high kill rate on target species of brush. The entire area would be closed to the use of recreational off-road vehicles. This alternative would result in an ultimate livestock use level of 433,990 AUMs. This alternative was not selected because of deficiencies in providing for wildlife and other resource values. This alternative would also require a greater expenditure of public money on marginal areas for the explicit purpose of administering livestock grazing. Its economic impact would have been magnified because of the larger number of ranches which would be required to have grazing management systems. It also would have adversely affected the growth of businesses involved with off-road vehicles. Wildlife habitat would continue to be adversely affected, because protected areas would not be provided for prairie chickens and other wildlife species. The quality of shrubland habitat would be affected on large areas. The high kill rate on brush species would result in the loss of habitat for 200 mule deer and nesting sites for 75 raptors. However, economic recovery for the ranching industry would be greater. The decision to reduce the initial number of wildlife enclosures proposed for construction, pending further study, is based on the effects stated under this alternative. Also, based on the analysis of this alternative, other areas are being considered for brush control, in addition to those identified in the proposed action.

Alternative 5

Livestock Adjustment

With the exception that livestock numbers would be adjusted to conform with the present forage production levels, (168,111 AUMs for livestock) implementation of this alternative would have basically the same effect as for "no action." Forage production levels would not be expected to increase significantly over time because of the continuing competition caused by invasion of brush species. This alternative was not implemented because the economic

impact to the local economy would not be reversed and the primary objectives of developing the rangeland's resources to reach their production potentials would not have occurred.

Alternative 6

Enhance Other Resource Values

Under this alternative, livestock would be excluded from 21,490 acres of the public lands and from 50 percent of the shortgrass and shinnery oak areas annually (approximately 358,713 acres). On the remaining 358,713 acres, use would be restricted to a 25 percent utilization level. All forage production on scattered tracts of the public land in Lea County would be reserved for wildlife. Prairie dog towns would be allowed to expand, and only 264,000 acres would be treated to control invaded brush species. In addition, specific grazing management systems would be required on those same areas which were identified under the proposed action.

This alternative was not selected because it would not achieve one major objective, the development of rangeland resources so that they would achieve their productivity potential. Implementation of this alternative would also have an adverse impact on the local ranching economy.

Alternative 7

No Grazing

This alternative would require the removal of all livestock from the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Individual landowners would be required to fence all state and private lands which are intermingled with the public lands, to prevent livestock from trespassing on federal property. Range improvements would not be maintained or constructed unless they were necessary for other resource programs, such as the management of wildlife habitat.

This alternative was not selected because the vegetative communities would not be restored to a near-climax

production situation within a reasonable period of time (100 years or less). Observations made on local long-standing excluded areas indicate that the prior climax production conditions may never be restored through the total exclusion of livestock grazing alone. Economic effects on that part of the local ranching industry which depends on public lands would have been devastating if this alternative had been implemented. In addition, this alternative would not achieve the major objective of developing the rangelands to their maximum production potentials for those resources which are present.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Opportunities have been provided for the public to become involved in all stages of the grazing program's development. Contacts were made with individuals, groups, and agencies to ensure that the public was made aware of this program, and to prevent the range users involved from becoming unduly concerned. For these reasons, the public was regularly notified of the progress being made on the ES and offered regular, specific opportunities to offer input into the statement.

Presented below is the schedule which offered both range users and the general public a chance to become involved during planning stages of the ES and development of the range management program document:

Schedule:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| November 1975 | - A news article was released to both print and broadcast media reviewing the impact statement plan. A public meeting held in Roswell explained those procedures which would be used in preparing the East Roswell Grazing ES. |
| October 1976 | - Open Houses were held in both Carlsbad and Hobbs to elicit comments and to interpret both the planning system and ES processes to the public. |
| November/December 1977 | - During the process of inventorying allotments, numerous individual contacts were made with ranchers holding BLM permits in the area. |
| July 1977 | - Coordination meetings were held with representatives of the State Land Office to brief them concerning the ES. |

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| August 1977 | - An open house was held in the area east of Carlsbad to explain the survey techniques being used to inventory forage production. |
| March 1978 | - A meeting was held for the general public in Carlsbad to elicit comments concerning the planning system and to answer questions concerning the ES process. |
| June 1978 | - A meeting was held for the general public to present proposed multiple-use recommendations and to elicit comments and to answer questions concerning the ES process. |
| July 1978 | - Briefing and coordination meetings were held with representatives of the State of New Mexico concerning the involvement of state lands in the proposed action. |
| August 1978 | - A meetings with the Range Improvement Task Force and Advisory Board was held to discuss the ES process. |
| September 1978 | - Key ranchers in the Roswell District were briefed concerning the proposed grazing management program. Their comments were also requested. |
| October 1978 | - A meeting with the Range Improvement Task Force was held to discuss the ES process, coordinate objectives, and to elicit comments. |
| November 1978 | - The State Historic Preservation Officer was consulted to discuss those cultural resources existing |

in the area and to consider the impacts to be avoided and measures to be taken for protection of those resources.

- November/December 1978 - Area ranchers and key individuals were interviewed to determine existing socioeconomic conditions and impacts which might occur.
- March 1979 - A meeting was held with the Range Task Force to discuss the range survey.
- March 1979 - A meeting was held with the State Lands Commission to discuss the range survey.
- April-May 1979 - Ranchers holding permits in the ES area were contacted individually to discuss results of the range survey.
- May 1979 - Letters were sent to all ranchers holding BLM permits in the ES area to inform them that the draft ES would soon be published and available for their review.
- June 1979 - Letters requesting comments on the adequacy of the analysis of impacts were sent out to all ranchers holding BLM permits in the ES area, together with a copy of the draft ES. Twenty-three news releases were sent to print and 19 to broadcast media requesting review of the draft ES and comments from the public. A second letter was sent to ranchers who had not requested a copy of the ES, informing them of forthcoming public hearings.

July 1979

- Twenty-four releases were sent to print and 19 to broadcast media to explain about the forthcoming public meetings and to invite the public to attend. Nineteen news releases were sent to print and 18 to broadcast media advising the public of a meeting of the advisory board and requesting contact from anyone wishing to make a statement. The agenda for this meeting included an explanation of the process involved in implementing the ES proposals. Newspaper and television interviews were held with district employees concerning the range program and the grazing ES. BLM personnel appeared as guest speakers at meetings of the Southeastern Grazing Association, the Association of Water Conservation Districts, and at the Soil and Water Conservation District in Lovington, New Mexico. Personal visits were made to the local Soil Conservation District Offices, with copies of the EIS being left for their distribution. Meetings were held in cooperation with the County Extension Agents and the Range Improvement Task Force to discuss the techniques used in the range survey, studies, and record keeping. Public hearings were held in Roswell and Carlsbad concerning the adequacy of the draft ES.

October 1979 -

News releases were sent to both print and broadcast media announcing the availability of the final ES. Meetings were held with the District Advisory Board, the

State Land Commission, and the Range Improvement Task Force to discuss the range management program, as provided under Section 8 of the Rangeland Improvement Act.

Additionally, the BLM's Roswell District has coordinated with other agencies and individuals during the process of developing this ES. Informal contacts were made with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Soil Conservation Service. Planning documents of other local agencies and their planning staffs were also consulted, as were individuals who were noted for their expertise in fields of knowledge which were pertinent to this study. Day-to-day contacts with users and other interest groups regularly occurred during this period and will continue as specific features of the range program are implemented.

Future public involvement concerning this program will be carried out in conformance with Section 8 of PL 95-514, The Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) and New Mexico BLM policy and procedures.

A meeting was held on January 17, 1980, to consult with livestock users, the State Land Office, the District Grazing Advisory Board, the NMSU Range Improvement Task Force and other interested parties.

Individual contacts will be made with all livestock operators in the area to discuss the actions to be implemented.

Future contacts to discuss the development, revision and evaluation of AMP's will comply with Section 8 of the PRIA.

IMPLEMENTATION

Administrative Actions

Implementation of this program will begin after full consultation and coordination with the livestock operators, State Land Office, District Grazing Advisory Board, and other interested parties.

Meetings with these groups and individuals will begin around the first of the year and should conclude in early spring. Actual consultation with the livestock operators will be made during the summer of 1980 with proposed actions to be decided the fall of this year. Proposed decisions will be issued by the Roswell District Manager to take effect on March 1, 1981. Term Permits will continue to be issued.

Range improvements and various levels of grazing systems will be explored for the purpose of solving rangeland problems prior to making any livestock adjustments.

Accountability

As the program progresses, a record of progress will be maintained and the specific program details will be contained in an annual publication. The publication will contain a resume of livestock grazing decisions, monitoring results, range improvement progress and management system information. Wildlife habitat and watershed program records, with respect to vegetative monitoring, implemented projects and general programs progress, will likewise be recorded and the information published for the benefits of all interested parties.

Range Improvements

The following schedule for BLM range improvements is our best estimate at this time and is subject to change depending on appropriations, manpower, etc. Estimated costs are \$3,300/mile of fence, \$11,000/ water development and \$12/acre for brush control programs.

The process concerning improvements on state lands will be as follows: After a need for crossing or placing an improvement on State lands is determined between BLM and the allottee, the allottee will then apply through the New Mexico State Land Office for permission to construct the improvement. Generally, an easement will not be required. Where no other funding is available, BLM funds may be spent on state land where they are necessary for the success or completion of the project.

Fiscal Year 1981

Complete chemical brush control programs on 18,000 acres. Survey and design 40 new water developments and 24 miles of fence to be completed during 1982. Survey and design programs to control brush on 18,000 acres during 1982, using chemicals.

Fiscal Year 1982

Complete chemical brush control programs on 18,000 acres. Construct 40 new water developments and 24 miles of new fence. Survey and design 40 new water developments and 24 miles of new fence to be completed during 1983. Survey 18,000 acres and design chemical brush control programs for 1983.

Fiscal Year 1983

Complete chemical brush control programs on 18,000 acres. Construct 40 new water developments and 24 miles of new fence. Design plans for construction of 40 new water developments and 24 miles of new fence. Also, survey 60,000 acres for proposed chemical brush control programs for implementation during 1984.

Fiscal Year 1984

Construct 40 new water developments and 24 miles of new fence. Complete chemical brush control programs on 60,000 acres. Survey and design programs for construction of 40 new water developments and 24 miles of new fence to be constructed in 1986.

Fiscal Year 1985 and Beyond

Brush should be controlled at the rate of 60,000 acres per year for 10-14 years, 126 new water developments should be constructed, along with 122 miles of new fence.

Grazing Use Adjustments

As stated in the Program Section, increases and reductions will be implemented on those 74 allotments which have only small amounts of federal public land acreage as worked out with the individual operators.

The remaining 110 allotments will be field-inspected and evaluated to determine the action to be taken.

Where reductions or increases are determined to be necessary, the manner and scheduling will be worked out with each operator. Further livestock adjustments would be based on the results of 3 to 5 years of range monitoring studies.

Most of these 184 allotments also contain state-owned lands which are leased by the state for grazing purposes at 5 year intervals. Agreed upon adjustments in state leases up for renewal in 1980 will be coordinated with the State Land Office and the grazing lessee prior to July 1. Any agreed upon adjustment of a state lease not up for renewal in 1980 will become effective upon the individual renewal date.

Allotment inspections will begin in the spring of this year with determinations of the program for each allotment made in the fall. Implementation of adjustments would be proposed to begin March 1, 1981.

Actions taken to reduce economic impacts on livestock operators include:

- (1) Working out adjustments and scheduling with individual operators.
- (2) Determining adjustments which will be necessary by the fall of 1980. This will allow adjustments to be made while livestock are being worked and marketed.

- (3) Delaying further reductions for a period of 3 to 5 years so that short-term effects of initial adjustments, management and range improvements can be properly monitored. It should be noted here that, in some cases, additional reductions may need to be implemented before the 3-5 year period where severe deterioration of the rangeland is continuing.

The proposed schedule of adjustments and extent of grazing use authorized over the 5-year time frame is subject to approval by the Director of the BLM and amendment of the regulations in Title 43 CFR, Part 4100.

- (4) Conducting joint field inspections before initiating any action. These joint inspections will provide an opportunity for a mutual understanding of the problems which may exist and the best way to solve them.

Appropriations

Development of range improvement facilities and grazing management systems will be based on current appropriations, and the rate of development will be subject to change in future appropriations.

Monitoring

Rangeland monitoring studies will be implemented on approximately 115 allotments. Five of the 74 allotments which include only small amounts of federal public land, will have studies initiated as a sample to monitor any changes which occur because of the actions taken on these allotments.

The monitoring studies will include utilization, actual use, condition, trend, and precipitation. These studies will be established in the spring and summer of 1980 and will continue until forage production and stocking rates are in balance. After this level is reached, studies will be limited to only those necessary. Where allotment management plans (AMPs) are developed, these studies will become an established component of each plan. Monitoring

studies will be conducted on each study allotment once every two months with data being compiled and analyzed annually. These studies are designed to provide information necessary to determine the vegetative response to the management actions employed.

The 18 livestock exclosures for wildlife purposes will be studied 3 to 4 times annually. The data collected will be used to determine the effectiveness of exclosures and if others are needed.

The monitoring studies on each allotment will be carried out in cooperation with the livestock operator to discuss results and determine any changes needed.

APPENDIX

Table I

28

AUM'S BY ALLOTMENT, PRESENT AND INDICATED

NO.	NAME	GRAZING PREFERENCE	AUMS INDI- CATED BY 1917-78 SURVEY	Initial Adjustments	3-Year Adjustments	5-Year Adjustments
Group I - 74 Allotments With Small Amounts Of Public Land						
5001	Sea Cattle	660	348			
5002	Gainer	72	25			
5003	N. Plains Land & Inv.	40	15			
5004	Boone	768	436			
5006	Van Eaton	48	11			
5008	Van Eaton	490	351			
5009	Marley	624	236			
5011	Moorhead	516	204			
5013	Goods, Inc.	384	182			
5014	McPewell (East)	72	18			
5015	Southard, F.	36	13			
5016	Southard, T.	144	117			
5017	Southard, J.	60	37			
5022	Smith, H.	36	79			
5023	White	212	169			
5026	Faircloth	216	214			
5027	Nuckols	144	49			
5030	Jenkins	84	46			
5031	Huston	243	210			
5033	Cato	144	91			
5035	Whitelakes	192	90			
5039	Red Tank	16	9			
5039	Sherman Cattle	60	46			
5042	Glenn	108	68			
5045	Caprock Ranch	316	135			
5050	Clemmons & Erdmann	468	224			
5052	Marley	12	9			
5054	Irvin	84	129			
5056	Graham, Lf.	60	87			
5059	Wilson	228	106			
5060	Sallie	24	31			
5061	Woods	48	83			
5064	Lee	176	109			
5070	Miles	60	52			
5071	Gless	12	11			
5081	Greer	178	111			
5089	Medlin, B.	180	60			
5093	Haley	20	4			
6001	McCrary	12	10			
6002	Field	5	4			
6003	Taylor & Heidel	5	6			
6010	Snyder, L.T.O.	96	50			
6012	Sims	12	2			
6013	Klein	78	40			
6014	S & N Cattle	406	83			
6015	Karnegay	300	72			
6016	Terry	197	75			
6017	Hill	236	39			
6018	Truland	116	57			
6019	Cooper, O.	269	66			
6024	Wallach	23	10			
6025	Robinson	526	237			
6026	Robinson	180	127			
6028	Brininstool, Wm.	252	79			
6029	Nard	20	4			
6031	Goins	158	73			
6032	Winters	216	47			
6034	Wylie	408	244			
6035	Madera, R.	612	598			
6036	Madera, R.	24	4			
6041	Olmieliddle	48	82			
6047	Oeck	490	296			
6048	Maddox	1,524	798			
6049	Snyder, L.T.O. (Hart)	(A)	380			
6050	Hiltourn	12	10			
7001	Haven	264	48			
7002	Karr	120	35			
7009	Evans	96	35			
7010	Solt	347	154			
7017	Greenwood, H.	180	34			
7023	Baker, Inc.	156	78			
7024	Simpson	175	136			
7029	Bond	210	158			
7030	Tracy	84	33			
Subtotal		15,118	8,419			

TABLE I
AUM'S BY ALLOTMENT, PRESENT AND INDICATED

NO.	NAME	GRAZING PREFERENCE	AUMS IND- CATED BY 1977-78 SURVEY	Initial Adjustments	3-Year Adjustments	5-Year Adjustments
Group II - 20 Allotments To Continue With Allotment Management Plans						
5043	Sand Ranch	1,650	980			
5046	Caprock Ranch	1,578	755			
5053	Culp, C.	2,847	2,424			
5063	Culp, J.	449	321			
5075	Bogle	37,940	21,204			
5077	Williams, P.	2,978	1,951			
5078	Slash ML Ranch	966	556			
6007	Caviness	2,622	1,660			
6022	Bingham	1,080	338			
6026	Brininstool, W.	2,363	1,038			
6037	Olsmoer & Half, Inc.	4,344	3,341			
6038	James	3,744	5,056			
6039	Robbins	2,580	1,073			
6040	Brininstool, C.	1,476	746			
7007	Haines	630	439			
7019	Raines	940	317			
7032	Sanders	13,236	8,544			
7036	Madera & McDonald	3,348	1,717			
7040	Jackson	11,327	5,410			
7042	Twinnells	8,251	4,249			
Subtotal		104,399	62,119			
Group III - 90 Allotments Proposed For Specific Grazing Systems						
5005	Oenton	1,200	673			
5007	Cooper, M.	480	517			
5010	Moorhead	516	266			
5012	Moorhead	720	514			
5014	McDowell (West)	384	139			
5018	Bilberry	584	313			
5019	Cooper, M.	536	542			
5020	Sturgeon	1,011	569			
5021	Hagner	853	666			
5024	Durham	663	1,017			
5025	Marley	944	1,224			
5028	Bilbrey	1,498	912			
5029	McCombs	663	416			
5032	Davis	1,656	1,002			
5034	Seelington	2,859	1,532			
5036	Cooper, C.	503	811			
5037	McCrea	2,907	2,318			
5038	Graham, Ly.	1,608	866			
5039	Sanhills	336	192			
5040	Harral	1,255	928			
5044	Isler	297	182			
5047	Hilburn	314	476			
5049	Clemmons & Erdmann	840	692			
5051	Marley	2,882	2,985			
5057	Tigner	228	352			
5058	Lynch	528	289			
5062	Garnsey	720	1,014			
5065	Graham, A.	972	837			
5066	Spears	406	461			
5068	Walstrom	2,145	1,409			
5069	VHV Cattle	1,785	1,654			
5072	Watson	1,654	933			
5073	Derrick, M.	521	495			
5074	Barbe	1,050	1,283			
5079	S & S Corp.	377	177			
5082	Gomez	143	40			
5083	Wilson	596	190			
5084	Greenwood	1,683	1,025			
5085	Taylor & Medlin	1,068	610			
5088	Derrick & Merritt	1,458	474			
5090	Sams & Dean	540	313			
5091	Derrick, R.	338	74			
5092	Merritt, Wm.	1,105	765			
6004	Warren	444	420			
6006	Caswell	2,400	3,037			
6008	Linam	1,785	981			
6009	Scharbauer	3,512	3,376			
6011	Smith, M.	2,832	1,398			
6020	Berry	3,553	2,122			
6021	Smith, Wm.	3,617	1,558			
6027	Merchant	2,968	2,062			
6029	Ward	1,151	682			
6030	Deep Well	612	304			

TABLE I
AUM'S BY ALLOTMENT, PRESENT AND INDICATED

NO.	NAME	GRAZING PREFERENCE	AUMS TWO- CATED BY 1977-78 SURVEY	Initial Adjustments	3-Year Adjustments	5-Year Adjustments
6033	Dinwiddie	3,420	1,978			
6035	Madera, R.	1,791	1,770			
6042	Dublin	804	337			
6043	Beckham	2,343	833			
6044	Madera, M.	660	202			
6044	Madera, M.	2,304	2,592			
6045	Madera, M. & K. (E)	905	333			
6045	Madera, M. & K. (SW)	3,029	1,090			
6045	Madera, M. & K. (NW)	2,640	896			
6046	McDonald	857	339			
7003	Holeman	567	350			
7004	Hartin	1,806	1,232			
7005	Johnson, G.	278	105			
7006	Gissler	672	399			
7008	Williams	2,819	1,286			
7011	Netherlin	923	380			
7012	Snyder, L. T. O.	(A) 21,319	9,573			
7013	Slash X Ranch	10,200	3,724			
7014	Stagner & Forehand	970	571			
7015	Angell	1,507	1,187			
7016	Fanning	1,215	985			
7018	Clayton	420	222			
7020	Spears, J.	2,362	1,106			
7021	Campbell	2,274	1,211			
7022	Key	6,324	3,542			
7025	West	420	437			
7026	Pue	564	180			
7027	Smith	7,769	3,849			
7028	Clark	1,173	833			
7031	Grandt	2,789	1,447			
7033	Mobley	1,953	1,037			
7034	Greenwood	1,066	382			
7035	J. & M. Farms	443	433			
7037	Delaware	3,984	1,658			
7038	Delaware	192	77			
7039	Lindsay	2,957	1,432			
7041	Johnson, W.	819	458			
Subtotal		162,249	97,573			
Subtotal 1		104,399	62,119			
Subtotal 2		162,249	97,573			
Subtotal 3		15,118	8,419			
GRANDTOTAL		281,766	168,111			

(A) AUMs included in 7012. The preference for allotment 7012 and 6049 are added together because they belong to the same ranch operation.

Table II

ALLOTMENTS PROPOSED FOR MONITORING STUDIES

(Not In Priority Order)

Group I - 74 Allotments With Small Amounts Of Public Land

5023	White	6035	Madera, R.
5027	Nuckolls	6048	Maddox
5061	Woods		

Group II - 20 Allotments To Continue With Allotment Management Plans

5043	Sand Ranch	6038	James
5046	Caprock Ranch	6039	Robbins
5053	Culp, C.	6040	Brininstool, C.
5063	Culp, J	7007	Haines
5075	Bogle	7019	Rains
5077	Williams, P.	7032	Sanders
5078	Slash ML Ranch	7036	Madera & McDonald
6007	Caviness	7040	Jackson
6022	Bingham	7042	Twinnells
6028	Brininstool, W.		
6037	Diamond & Half, Inc.		

Group III - 90 Allotments Proposed For Specific Grazing Systems

5005	Denton	6009	Scharbauer
5007	Cooper, M.	6011	Smith, M.
5010	Moorhead	6020	Barry
5012	Moorhead	6021	Smith, Wm.
5014	McDowell (West)	6027	Merchant
5018	Billberry	6029	Ward
5019	Cooper, M.	6030	Deep Well
5020	Sturgeon	6033	Olinwiddle
5021	Wagner	6035	Madera, R.
5024	Durham	6042	Dublin
5025	Marley	6043	Beckham
5028	Blibrey	6044	Madera, M.
5029	McCombs	6044	Madera, M.
5032	Oavis	6045	Madera, M. & K. (E)
5034	Seeligson	6045	Madera, M. & K. (SW)
5036	Cooper, C.	6045	Madera, M. & K. (NW)
5037	McCrea	6046	McDonald
5038	Graham, Ly.	7003	Holman
5039	Sand Hills	7004	Martin
5040	Harra	7005	Johnson, G.
5044	Isler	7006	Gissler
5047	Hilburn	7008	Williams
5049	Clemmons & Erdmann	7011	Netherlin
5051	Marley	7012	Snyder, L.T.O.
5057	Tigner	7013	Slash X Ranch
5058	Lynch	7014	Stagner & Forehand
5062	Gernsey	7015	Angell
5065	Graham, A.	7016	Fanning
5066	Spears	7018	Clayton
5068	Malstrom	7020	Spears, J.
5069	VHV Cattle	7021	Campbell
5072	Hatson	7022	Key
5073	Derrick, M.	7025	West
5074	Barbe	7026	Pue
5079	S & S Corp.	7027	Smith
5082	Gomez	7028	Clark
5083	Wilson	7031	Grand
5084	Greenwood	7033	Mobley
5085	Taylor & Medlin	7034	Greenwood
5088	Derrick & Merritt	7035	J. & M. Farms
5090	Sams & Dean	7037	Delaware
5091	Derrick, R.	7038	Delaware
5092	Merritt, Wm.	7039	Lindsay
6004	Warren	7041	Johnson, W.
6006	Caswell		
6008	Linam		

D

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